

land—including some remarkably boldly-designed railways—and all the great mining operations have been effected by men of this race, which, in the second and now in the third generation, has, at any rate, as yet shown no signs of deterioration due to climate. The deterioration, if any, is not physical, but moral, and is due, where it exists, to causes quite independent of climate—e.g., isolation—and is identical in character with that encountered outside the tropics where the conditions other than those of climate are similar. Of course, it is admitted that a population, whether "white" or "native," cannot continue to thrive or even exist only on the produce of railway building and mining. It is, however, confidently held in Northern Queensland itself that the white race has shown itself to be capable of engaging in field labour there; and it is certain that the white men engaged in that pursuit have of late years increased in number. Perhaps it may be asserted that the expression "tropical climate" is not more precise than the expression "European climate" would be; as though there were a similarity between the climate of Hammerfest and that of Naples. The climate of tropical continental uplands, being dry, and at its hottest not more torrid than the Canadian or Russian summer, in its effect on the "white" constitution differs much from the moist relaxing climate of small tropical islands no part of which is far from the ocean and where the thermometric record is lower.

There are, however, two islands attracting a good deal of attention just at this moment which, though within the tropics, have long supported a white population of considerable size, and one that has gone on increasing and has persistently maintained its numerical superiority to the "native" population. Any one who visited Cuba forty years ago, especially if he went there direct from such an island as Jamaica, must have felt that he had removed to a country with a white population from one with a black. In Havana, at all events, the white largely and obviously outnumbered the coloured. A reference to statistics will show that the numerical superiority of the whites prevails throughout. The "Encyclopaedia Britannica" gives a tabular statement of the Cuban population for a series of years:—

Year.	Whites.	Free Blacks.	Slaves.	Total.
1811.....	274,000	114,000	212,000	600,000
1817.....	290,000	115,691	225,268	630,000
1827.....	311,051	106,494	286,942	704,487
1841.....	418,051	152,838	436,495	1,007,624
1846.....	425,769	149,226	323,759	898,752
1849.....	457,133	164,410	323,896	945,440
1860.....	604,610	207,735	367,370	1,179,715

The "Encyclopaedia" adds that in 1861 the total population was 1,306,530, of which 730,894 were "naturalised" whites, and that there were also 26,709 Spaniards and "resident" and "passing" foreigners.

Both Elisée Reclus, in his "Nouvelle Géographie Universelle," and the authors of the "Nouveau Dictionnaire de Géographie Universelle," agree that in 1875 the total population of Cuba was 1,360,000; but they differ widely as to the proportionate numbers of

its components. Nevertheless, they agree in assigning to the whites not only the superiority over the others, but also an absolute majority of the total inhabitants. Brockhaus's and Meyer's "Konversations Lexicon"—the former in 1892 and the latter of 1894—agree in giving 1897 as the date of the last census, and 1,631,687 as the total number of the inhabitants of Cuba. In Meyer's the "coloured" and Chinese (coolies) are given as 572,989, thus leaving more than a million for the whites. In Brockhaus's it is stated that the population of Cuba "since the beginning of the 19th century has increased nearly a million." The increase has been principally in the white portion. E. Reclus says that in 1774 there were 96,440 whites in Cuba. Consequently, the island has maintained a considerable white population for a century and a quarter, or, say, five generations, in which period it has increased more than tenfold. It is true that Reclus and the authors of the "Nouveau Dictionnaire," &c., doubt the perfect purity of the blood of the "whites." To those who knew Cuba forty years ago, this doubt will appear far from well-founded. There was no community in the world so jealous of its "racial" purity as the Cuban Creoles of European stock. No doubt there was much "miscegenation;" but the intensely exclusive Creole whites of a generation back, at least, would refuse to class the results amongst themselves. Reclus himself somewhat weakens his objection to the general purity of the Cuban whites by saying spontaneously that at the time of Humboldt's visit to the West Indies *blanchiment officiel* in Cuba was rare. Humboldt was there in 1800 when the white population already amounted to about 200,000, and, as shown by subsequent figures, was increasing. Even if we make a very large allowance for improper absorption of persons of colour into the "white" statistics, the latter would still remain the numerically preponderating element of the population.

Though the figures are smaller, the case of the people of Puerto Rico is the same. There also the white element predominates and has long predominated. As to this island, Reclus does not raise any question of purity of blood; so that here, at all events, the preponderance of pure whites appears to be accepted.

Men of European stock seem to have engaged for several generations in agricultural labour in Cuba. Till well within the second half of the 19th century, if not till now, the *vegas*, or small holdings on which the tobacco of the high-class "Havannah" cigars was grown, were exclusively cultivated by their white proprietors.

I should like to say that I do not presume to question the conclusions formulated by Mr. Kidd in his very remarkable contributions to recent numbers of the *Times*. I have only ventured, it is hoped not too presumptuously, to inquire if that most distinguished writer had allowed for the occurrence of such cases of white acclimation in the tropics as appear to be presented in a minor degree by Queensland and in a greater degree by Cuba and Puerto Rico.